

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 CU-04 ACDA-12 /090 W
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R 271910Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6234
USMISSION USBERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03592

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: ALLIED REACTION IN BONN GROUP TO
NATIONALSTIFTUNG

REFS: (A) USBER 439
(B) BONN 3429
(C) BONN 3012
(D) 77 BONN 21092

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE AGREE WITH USBER (REF A) THAT
THE IDEA OF A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO THE NATIONALSTIFTUNG
PROBLEM IS A VAST IMPROVEMENT OVER THE EARLIER PROPOSAL
TO ESTABLISH A NEW FRG OFFICE WITH THE NAME "NATIONAL-
STIFTUNG" IN BERLIN. THE NEW CONCEPT WOULD PROVIDE THE
SOVIETS WITH MUCH LESS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT AND SHOULD,
THEREFORE, BE ENCOURAGED. THE ALLIED REACTION IN THE
BONN GROUP WAS NOT TO THIS CONCEPT BUT TO THE SPECIFICS
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OF THE PROPOSAL DRAFTED BY THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
(MOI). THE DRAFT AGREEMENT GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT
THE COMPROMISE SOLUTION WILL BE PORTRAYED AS THE
NATIONALSTIFTUNG UNDER ANOTHER NAME AND THAT THE COMPRO-
MISE IS AN INTERIM SOLUTION PENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE NATIONALSTIFTUNG. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD
ENCOURAGE A FINAL AGREEMENT WHICH ELIMINATES CERTAIN

FEATURES IN THE MOI DRAFT AND WHICH WILL MAKE THE
SOLUTION AS LOW-KEY AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL AS POSSIBLE.
END SUMMARY

1. WE AGREE WITH USBER (REF A) THAT THE PROPOSED
"COMPROMISE SOLUTION" TO THE NATIONALSTIFTUNG PROBLEM
IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE NATIONALSTIFTUNG PROPOSAL
WHICH HAS BEEN AROUND FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WITH RESPECT
TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF REF A, THE REACTION OF THE ALLIED
REPS IN THE BONN GROUP (REF C) TO THE COMPROMISE SOLUTION
MAY BE EXPLAINED AS FOLLOWS.

2. WE HAD EARLIER UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SOLUTION WOULD
BE AN "ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT" BETWEEN BUND AND
LAENDER PROVIDING FOR A TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE
PREUSSISCHER KULTURBESITZ WHICH THE LATTER WOULD USE TO
PROMOTE CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC UNDERTAKINGS (REF D). THE
IMPRESSION WAS THAT THIS WOULD BE A LOW-KEY AND
NON-CONTROVERSIAL RESULT. HOWEVER, WHEN THE FRG BONN
GROUP REP READ TO US PARTS OF THE DRAFT FRG/LAENDER
AGREEMENT PREPARED BY THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, QUITE
ANOTHER IMPRESSION EMERGED. AS NOTED IN REF C, THIS
AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS (AND
PERHAPS MORE) WHICH GO BEYOND A TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO
THE KULTURBESITZ:

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(A) THIS IS TO BE AN INTERIM SOLUTION UNTIL THE
NATIONALSTIFTUNG IS ESTABLISHED.

(B) THE KULTURBESITZ IS TO BE A TRUSTEE FOR THE
NATIONALSTIFTUNG.

(C) THE AGREEMENT REFERS TO THE "BUNDESREPUBLIK
ALS GANZES," WHICH IS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO INCLUDE
BERLIN IN SOME WAY AS PART OF THE FRG.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03592

(D) AN INCREASE IN KULTURBESITZ PERSONNEL IS
CONTEMPLATED.

3. IN SHORT, THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT APPEAR
TO MAKE IT LIKELY THAT THE COMPROMISE SOLUTION WILL
BE PORTRAYED PUBLICLY AS THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE
NATIONALSTIFTUNG, WITH THE DIFFERENCES (WHICH WE DO NOT
DENY ARE IMPORTANT) THAT THE NAME DOES NOT CONTAIN
"NATIONAL" AND THAT AN EXISTING ORGANIATION IN BERLIN
IS TO BE EXPANDED RATHER THAN A NEW FEDERAL OFFICE
BEING ESTABLISHED THERE. WE AGREE WITH USBER THAT A
SMALL INCREASE IN PERSONNEL OF THE KULTURBESITZ SHOULD
NOT BE REGARDED TOO SERIOUSLY. HOWEVER, THIS IS ONLY
ONE OF THE NEW ELEMENTS.

4. WHAT THE ALLIED REPS IN THE BONN GROUP WERE REACTING
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TO WAS THE AGREEMENT AS PORTIONS WERE READ TO US. THEY
WERE NOT REACTING TO WHAT THE FINAL FORM OF THE COMPRO-
MISE SOLUTION MIGHT BE OR TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE
COMPROMISE SOLUTION MIGHT NOT BE AN INTERIM BUT RATHER
THE FINAL SOLUTION. THE DRAFT AGREEMENT EXPRESSLY
REFERS TO IT AS AN INTERIM SOLUTION, WITH THE NECESSARY
SUGGESTION THAT THE NATIONALSTIFTUNG WILL BE ESTABLISHED
IN BERLIN AT SOME LATER DATE. IT DOES NOT, AS REF A
STATES, AMOUNT TO THE EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE IDEA OF A
NATIONALSTIFTUNG; RATHER IT MERELY DELAYS THE IMPLEMENTA-

TION OF THAT IDEA. THE USE OF "BUNDESREPUBLIK ALS GANZES" WILL BE PARTICULARLY GALLING TO THE SOVIETS, AS THE SOVIET SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE USE OF "LAND BERLIN" HAS SHOWN, AND IS A TEXTUAL CONTRADICTION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. FOR THESE REASONS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE MOI PROPOSAL WILL TERMINATE THE CONTROVERSY.

5. WHILE WE SUPPORT THE BASIC CONCEPT OF THE COMPROMISE SOLUTION, WE BELIEVE THAT THE DRAFT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REVISED TO REMOVE SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS WHICH COULD CONTINUE THE CONTROVERSY AND THAT THE GERMANS SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED FROM PORTRAYING THE SOLUTION AS THE NATIONALSTIFTUNG IN DIFFERENT GARB. BECAUSE OF THE INTERNAL JOCKEYING OVER THIS ISSUE IN THE FRG AND THE LAENDER WHICH WILL INEVITABLY TAKE PLACE, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY ALLIED ENCOURAGEMENT TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE FORM OF THE SOLUTION AS LOW-KEY AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL AS POSSIBLE CANNOT HELP BUT REDUCE THE DIFFICULTIES WE MIGHT FACE.

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